

the RARS **Exciter**

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

March, 2004 Number 395



Photos by Denyse KG4CXR

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GENERALIZING.....

A General Class was held in January.

Top: Dick W8HYD instructor, Keith KI4BZC, Martin KI4CFS, Mike KC4WUH, Mary Jo K4MJL, Chuck K4HF (helper). Bottom left: John KG4SWI, Jim KI4BZB. Right: Martin KI4CFS and Bob K1RCB. Not shown is Denyse KG4CXR . ALL 8 students passed the written General Test.

The Exciter

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the day after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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PRESIDENT:	Andy Peterson NI4S 919-845-6251 ni4s@arrl.net
VICE-PRESIDENT	Dick Bitner W8HYD 919-872-6802 ncsol@bellsouth.net
SECRETARY:	Virginia Enzor KG4PFA 919-469-8555 kg4pfa@aol.com
TREASURER:	Greg Seamster KE4PAX 919-859-0029 ke4pax@arrl.net



INFO

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:



Share the Love -- of Radio

Perhaps you've already heard about the licensing "Plan for the

Next Decade" recently put forth by the ARRL. If you haven't already looked at the details and the reasoning behind it, I'd encourage you to visit www.arrl.org.

So far, I've heard some fairly strong opinions on the topic. I'm sure it'll be keeping the bands busy with conversation material for some time -- as if hams needed more to talk about!

One of the points mentioned on the League's web site is that increased privileges for new hams would help them interact more closely with experienced ones. This would encourage newcomers and help them gain valuable operating skills more quickly. These sound like good things to promote. Any proposed changes would be a long way off. Practice in encouraging newcomers, and helping each other increase our technical and operating skills is something that need not wait. I love the Amateur Radio hobby, and enjoy sharing it. I know I'm not alone.

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: Every first Tuesday of the Month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh

Time: 7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID and the original copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETINGS:

March 2, 2004 Lightning Skywarn Class
April 6, 2004 RARS Birthday Party/Awards

EXTRA CLASS

The Smith Chart Amateur Radio Society, K4OO announces an Amateur Extra License class. The class begins Monday March 8, 2004, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and meets every Monday right through May 10. The VE test session in Smithfield is the following Saturday.

The fee for the class is \$25.00 and includes the ARRL Extra Class License Manual, 8th edition that we will be using as the text.

The class will be held at the Eastern Wake Fire Rescue Station #2 at the intersection of Poole and Clifton Roads. From the I-440 Poole Road exit, take Poole Road east approximately 4.5 miles. The station will be on your left.

Pre-registration is required for this class. I must have your class fee (\$25.00) by Feb. 26, 2004, so that the training materials can be ordered. In the event that we don't have enough pre-registrations to hold the class the class fee will be refunded.

To pre-register send checks payable to:

Frank A. Lynch, W4FAL

2528 Oakes Plantation Dr

Raleigh, NC 27610-9328

919-740-3957 (Cellphone) 919-905-2934 (Work) w4fal@smithchart.org

ELKIN HAMFEST

ELKIN Hamfest is on AGAIN!!!

Sunday February 22, 2004

8:00 a.m. at the Elkin recreation center gym located on Hwy 268 west going out of Elkin toward Wilkesboro just before Henderson & Wood Chevy, Dodge

\$5.00 admission \$5.00 for a selling table.

All proceeds go to The Foothills Food Pantry of Surry County

A VE team is already in place for testing

Talk-in is 145.370- (94.8 Hz PL Tone)

Wilkesboro W4HF as it has been from past fests.

Drew Pondexter AD4T, owner of 146.925 Dobson, NC repeater is heading up the event.

Some contacts are:

Drew Poindexter AD4T ad4t@triad.rr.net, Larry Macemore

K4LJM, k4ljm@earthlink.net, Mike Finney W4YDK,

w4wdk@wmconnect.com

JARS AUCTION

The annual JARS auction this year will be at The Panther Branch Community building just outside of Garner on Thursday February 19.. The address is 10900 Ten Ten Road. They will have pizza and soft drinks for a nominal charge. If you want to sell items the check in will start at 6:00 PM and stop at 6:45 PM so our helpers can get food to eat also. We will have a shorted meeting at 7:00 PM then the auction will start. Hope everyone will come to join us.



GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 2, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Andy Peterson, NI4S.

Two visitors were recognized and welcomed.

Treasurer's Report (KE4PAX): None was given.

Announcements: Tim Buehlmann, W4TIM announced that he would be involved with the School Club Roundup on Wednesday, February 11, at A. B. Combs Elementary School and asked for volunteers to assist him.

Andy Peterson, NI4S made the following announcements:

The JARS Auction will be held on February 19 at the Panther Branch Community Building. Check in is from 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.; the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

There will be an Advanced Skywarn Spotter Class on

February 21, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at the Senior Citizen Building in Cary. More information can be found at ccskywarn.net.

There will a Skywarn dinner on February 29 at 6:30 p.m. at China Buffet on Capital Boulevard in Wake Forest.

Bobbie Wittich, KD4ZVW requested help with the upcoming MS Walk and Pooch Parade on Saturday, April 17, from 7:30 – 2:00 p.m. and the MS 150 Bike Ride on September 11-12.

Hank Montgomery, K4HM advertised the RARS Hamfest on Sunday, April 4 and solicited assistance. An incentive drawing will be held in May for those who help with the Hamfest.

Andy Peterson, NI4S concluded the announcements by stating that Jeff Orrock of the NWS will present a program on lightning at the March meeting. Dick Bitner confirmed the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The RARS Birthday Party will be the feature of the April meeting.

Program: Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD introduced Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO who gave an informative presentation on "Operating Awards and Wallpaper." Dick Orander, KD4ISC shared the Columbia Space Shuttle QSL card that he had received.

Andy Peterson, NI4S offered congratulations to all who passed tests during the evening.

The upcoming North Carolina QSO Party in February was discussed. More details about this event can be found in the February issue of QST.

Door prizes were won by Larry Wiandt, N4LEW and Virginia Enzor, KG4PFA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Enzor, KG4PFA, Secretary.

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RARS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewals and new membership dues can be paid at RARS meetings, on-line at the RARS website, or mailed to the RARS treasurer. Mail To:

Greg Seamster
RARS Treasurer
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606

RARS now accepts credit card payments online for new members and membership renewals. See the RARS website (www.rars.org) for more information. You can join or renew for 1, 2, or 3 years.



2004 BOARD MEMBERS

Left to right:

President: Andy Peterson NI4S
 PIO: Gary Pearce KN4AQ
 Secretary: Greg Seamster KE4PAX
 ARRL Liaison: Chuck Littlewood K4HF
 VP: Dick Bitner W8HYD
 Secretary: Virginia Enzor KG4PFA
 Net Manager: Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
 Member at large: Selene Montgomery: KG4RMT
 RARSFEST Chairman: Hank Montgomery K4HM
 Webmaster: Tim Nicholson W4NOT
 Public Service Dir: Bob Breyer K1RCB
Several board members not present for first meeting of the year.

Minutes of the RARS Board Meeting November 18, 2003

The RARS board meeting was held at Forest Hills Baptist Church on Tuesday, November 18, 2003. Members present were K4HF, K4HM, KA2FWC, KG4CXR, KG4PFA, KG4RMT, KN4AQ, NI4S, W4BRB, and W8HYD.

The meeting was called to order by W4BRB at 7:30 p.m.

On motion by NI4S and seconded by KA2FWC, the minutes of the October board meeting were approved.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report: No report

Vice President's Report (NI4S): The December 2nd RARS meeting will be the Christmas party, and the program for the January meeting will be Junkyard Antennas.

Committee Reports

FM Committee (KN4AQ): The 145.13 machine is being tested at KN4AQ's, and will be installed shortly. Gary has been working on programming for the controllers. The search for a 220 machine will begin once 145.13 is installed.

Exciter (KG4CXR): Changes can be expected for the new year. The December issue will be mailed on November 11, 2003.

Net Manager: No report

Web Master: No report

Membership (KG4CXR): Nothing to report

Hamfest (K4HM): Everything is on schedule. Riley Hollingsworth will be the featured speaker, and Dan Henderson, N1ND, will be there checking QSL cards for DXCC.

Public Information (KN4AQ): An article on broadband over power lines (BPL) written by KN4AQ has received much attention from hams.

Education (W8HYD): A General License Class is planned to begin in January 2004. It will meet for 2 nights a week for 6 weeks; the exact dates will be determined at a later time. W8HYD will teach the class with assistants TBD.

VE Team: The VE Team tested approximately 25 people at JARSfest. The next VE opportunity will be in February 2004.

Public Service: No report.

ARRL Liaison (K4HF): More people are becoming interested in the BPL issue.

Nominating Committee (K4HF): New officers and board members will be installed at the December 2003 meeting.

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee – No report

At Large Director (W8HYD) – Nothing to report

Special or Ad Hoc Committees – No report

Unfinished Business

There is sufficient member interest to proceed with a RARS remote access HF system. KN4AQ reviewed a presentation with some changes on this topic. Next steps include putting together a project team to gather financial information and looking at project details. Interested At Large Directors will work with W0UCE on this project; NI4S will appoint a board liaison in January and work with Jack in the meantime.

At the previous board meeting, the question was asked about the eligibility of non-RARS member being included in the RARS list server. It was decided that non-RARS members should not be included in the RARS list server.

Credit Union Research: There was no further information from KE4PAX; this item of business will be left on the agenda for the January 2004 board meeting.

New Business

K4HF made a motion to make a donation for a one-year membership for KC4GFR. KG4CXR seconded the motion, and the board approved the donation unanimously.

A letter from N4JCK, the president of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club, was read by W4BRB. N4JCK asked what he could do to support RARS activities and requested to receive the Exciter electronically.

A motion was made by KA2FWC to cancel the December board meeting. It was seconded by NI4S and carried.

W4BRB conveyed the enjoyment he has felt during his term as president of RARS and expressed his appreciation to the board for all they have done.

On motion by K4HM, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Enzor, KG4PFA, in absence of Jim Walter, KG4FIJ

There was no board meeting in December in which the November meeting were to be approved.

HAMFEST SOCIAL/DINNER....April 3

It is time to finalize plans for the Annual RARS Hamfest....and that includes the Hamfest Social for the **evening of April 3.** Help from everyone who reads this article is needed to make our friends who come to the Hamfest feel welcome during our "special evening" of food, fun, and fellowship. Once again, Larry Carringer will provide music that adds so much to the enjoyment of the evening!

We will need help at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the 3rd to decorate tables that are set up in the Hospitality Room of the Jim Graham Building at the State Fair Grounds. We are planning a special theme for the evening and will need about 10 people to help decorate. Please call me at 872-6555 if you are available.

That evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m., help will be needed to arrange food items on the serving tables, replenish food items as needed, and for clean up following the meal. Dinner is scheduled from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Clean up following the meal should not take longer than about 30 minutes.

Most important of all is the FOOD that will be needed. RARS furnishes the pork barbecue, fried chicken, bread, drinks, and paper products. We need for YOU to furnish the side items of vegetable dishes, salads, assorted casseroles, and desserts. If you are trying to decide what you might contribute...let me first encourage vegetables, salads, or casseroles.....BUT, if your specialty is a dessert, by all means do not hesitate to share this with our guests. Even store-bought and prepared items are welcomed!! Please bring your food items by 6:15 to the exhibit hall of the Jim Graham Building in the area just outside the Hospitality Room on the evening of April 3. Someone will be there to direct you to the location.

I sincerely thank everyone who will help in any way. For many years we have had great participation by RARS members and their families in carrying out the Hamfest Social/Dinner. Those guests who partake of the meal are always complimentary of the efforts by so many folks to make the evening before the Hamfest such an enjoyable time. Please do what you can to ensure the continuation of this wonderful reputation.

Let's have another evening of great food, fun, and fellowship!

Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL
Hamfest Social Chairman
872-6555, leave a message
or k4mjl@earthlink.net

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LOOKing Back 30 Years

Taken from the March 1974 Exciter

RARS Hamfest will be held April 21, 1974. The location this year will be at Crabtree Valley with a giant flea market under the back parking deck.

With the new voluntary plan for buying gas in NC now in operation, some amateurs with call letter license plates might not know which days to buy gas on. With a 4 on the tags, some might use even days. But according to Avery C. Upchurch, Executive Director of the NC Service Station Association, all special plates, such as personalized tags and amateur radio call letter tags will buy gas on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the odd days.



LOOKing Back 10 Years

Taken from the March 1994 Exciter

The RARS 146.64 repeater is now transmitting a CTCSS tone (or "PL" in Motorola-speak). The tone frequency is 88.5 Hz.

K4HF announced that it has now been ten years since the FCC began issuing 10 year licenses. This means that no Amateur Radio Licenses have expired in the last five years.

NO0T announced that in the last year, the growth of the Packet Cluster has exceeded what was projected for the five year period beginning one year ago.

KC4UPZ announced that the 64 on .64 award program has been reinstated and he hopes for activity in this area.

The "live" General Class 2004

The General class not only worked to prepare us for the test but worked to give us a solid understanding of the radio & electronics basics. Before the class, I stared at the block diagram of the single-side band in the General book, and read the chapter but just could not understand it. In the class the stages were broken down and explained one at a time with a great power point presentation and I got it! The class also was an enhanced "lab" type demonstration, like moving a magnet over a hand wound coil producing an AC voltage on a digital meter. Two to four senior/extra hams were available to help with the class. So if we got stuck on understanding a topic one of the "extras" could provide another explanation to improve clarity. Considering we got the General book, twice a week class room session for 2 hours, and the volunteered time of the senior hams for \$13.00 is another example of the generosity of the Ham community. Don't forget also, that the teachers were available for help outside the class and we have a once a week net reviewing the material on 146.640. Wow, what a deal!

I anticipate we will all pass the test with a lot more than just the minimum knowledge to answer the test question. And NOW when I key the mike of my transceiver, at home, I have a deep understanding of what's really going on. As, the little electrons on the 14 gage wire travel through my house AC cord, to the 12v full rectifying power supply (with capacitor) filtering and a bleeder resistor, to the 12v transceiver, down the feed line to the impedance matched antenna, the little electrons "give up" their energy to travel at the speed of light up to thousands of miles away as radio waves!

Thanks for the class RARS! 73, KI4CFS Martin Brossman@
KI4CFS@toinquire.com

146.88 145.39, 147.105, & 147.135 Repeaters are supported by PCRN. If you would like to donate please make checks to:

**PCRN
PO Box 12734
Raleigh, NC 27605**

**More info on PCRN:
www.pcrn.net**

NET REPORTS FOR DECEMBER, 2003

8:00PM DAILY: RARS Two Meter Net

**Participants 416
Traffic 42/23
Time 726 minutes
Sessions 31**

8:30PM SAT: Tech & Traders Net 9:00PM MON: SWL/SIG

**Participants 137
Traffic 0/0
Time 297 Minutes
Sessions 8**

North Carolina Hams See Progress Energy Phase II BPL Trial

By Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Wake County ARES PIO



Progress Energy fulfilled their promise to North Carolina Amateur Radio operators and invited several Raleigh area hams to observe their new Phase II BPL trial in a rural subdivision south of the city on January 15th.

(BPL Broadband over Power Lines is a system for delivering high speed Internet through neighborhoods and into homes and businesses via the power lines. The technology places radio frequency signals on the power lines in parts of the spectrum between 2 and 80 MHz. Those signals radiate to some extent, and can cause interference to a receiver in the vicinity of the power lines. Naturally this has become cause for great concern among hams worldwide.)

Wake County ARES EC Tom Brown, N4TAB, Technical Specialist Frank Lynch, W4FAL and I met with engineers for both Progress Energy and Amperion, the equipment manufacturer. Two of the Progress Energy engineers were also hams.

The BPL trial consisted of a half-mile of overhead feeder along a highway, and a few dozen homes passed by buried power lines. A “repeater” amplified the signal about every other block.

We were particularly interested in the spectrum used. We learned that each run of BPL, from repeater to repeater, uses two blocks of spectrum, 2.5 and 3.5 MHz wide. At each repeater, a different block of spectrum is required.

The overhead feeder segment in this trial used spectrum blocks around 25 and 29 MHz. We listened with mobile equipment driving on the road adjacent to the power line, and received S-9 signals in the immediate vicinity of the line. The BPL radiation filled each spectrum block with carriers less than 1 kHz apart.

The signal fell off quickly when driving away from the line, but a ham at a home station almost a mile away heard the 10-meter BPL signal about S-6 using an 80-meter dipole antenna.

Amperion says a Network Operation Center can move any repeater to another block of spectrum, or notch part of a block by remote control, to eliminate interference, but they were unable to demonstrate that for our test.

Even with that flexibility, fitting 3.5 MHz wide blocks of energy in between ham bands would be a delicate jigsaw puzzle. That much “empty” spectrum exists only between the 30, 20 and 17-meter bands, and it’s empty only from the perspective of Amateur Radio.

Skip could completely upset the equation. BPL signals, which are similar to very low power QRP Amateur signals, could reflect off the ionosphere and appear hundreds or thousands of miles away. The energy of one isolated trial area might not have much impact, but a mature nationwide system with hundreds or even thousands of installations using the same spectrum blocks could be a very different story.

Yet to come in BPL is a comprehensive report from the NTIA; an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for changes in Part 15, based on last year’s Notice of Inquiry; and a decision by your local utility about getting involved in BPL.

It's almost here - The 32nd Annual RARSfest arrives on April 4, 2003

A dedicated crew of RARS members has been working since September making preparations for the big event. As a RARS member, you can be proud that RARS has a great hamfest. Our vendors and guests are great, and we get fewer complaints than any other hamfest I have been associated with. As a result, RARSfest is the largest hamfest in the northern Piedmont area. While I don't have any statistics to prove it I feel safe saying that the size of RARSfest would rank in the top 10% among all hamfests. Over thirteen thousand flyers have been mailed, more have been handed out at hamfests, club meetings, area retail outlets, and by some of our vendors. Ads have been placed in local papers and on web sites, hamfest calendars have been updated, notice has been sent on email lists, and announcements have been made on nets across the state. Admission tickets have been sold through online registration on our web site, through snail mail, and at other club meetings and hamfests and Jeff Wittich has managed to keep up with the sales of pre-registration tickets, flea market space and booths. Contracts are in place for the Graham building, tables, chairs, booths, curtains, etc. Prizes have been ordered, floor layouts have been confirmed, the menu for the Saturday night supper has been determined, workers have been recruited, and the stockings are hung by the chimney with care.

Oops, better back up here. Forget the stockings and let's get back to "workers have been recruited". Lucky for you, that isn't complete yet. There is still time for you to get involved. This is where you get to help make RARSfest a success. You'll be richer for the experience (maybe in more ways than one).

There is still plenty of work to go around for everyone, and luckily RARS is a big club with enough members to get the job done. We have ample opportunities available in Security, Admissions, Setup, Flea Market, Social, Talk-in, Stage help, Contests, Raffle ticket sales, RARS Table (which offers the free service of selling equipment for members who are working) and Teardown (Dumpster Divers). We even have Doug and Doug (not to be confused with Bob and Bob) who live in other states but drive for hours each year to work the whole weekend at RARSfest. Please select an area or two where you can volunteer a few hours of your time to support RARS and help us make the 2004 RARSfest a resounding success.

The weekend activities get started on Friday when Bernard checks out the building where the Fairgrounds staff has already set up some of our tables (look for a new layout this year). Bernard's setup crew will check the table placement and affix row and table numbers. The crew spends several hours Friday making final adjustments to the facilities so everything is ready for the Saturday onslaught of dealers.

On Saturday morning the setup crew is again in full swing making last minute adjustments. By noon the Admissions crew headed by Andy Peterson is busy handling the arrival of vehicles full of goodies for the commercial dealer booths managed by Chuck Littlewood and the flea market. About now Gary Pearce is preparing the Stage while Mary Jo Littlewood and her Supper crew are busy converting the meeting room into a dining room. We have Fairgrounds security on the floor to take care of any unfriendly business but Chief Ron Ford manages our friendly RARSfest Security crew as they stay busy directing folks who can't find their table, the restrooms, the door, etc., making sure vehicles are not left blocking the isles, and keeping an eye on things in general, (of course there is a lot of window shopping going on as well). A little later club members start arriving with covered dishes to go with the supper Mary Jo has provided and the line starts forming for the supper bell (Yes! – Larry Carringer will be back tickling the ivories again this year). After supper we expect to have an Initiation Ceremony into the Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong, then it's time to vacate the premises except for Fairgrounds Security who will maintain a presence inside the building overnight.

Then bright and early Sunday morning at about 5:30 am the first workers start arriving. There will already be a line of flea market vendors waiting for the doors to open so they can set up their tables and booths. The Talk-in station headed by Joe Zobkiw and Bruce Buck will be guiding our guests in from the four corners of the state while the Admissions crew is again busy at the flea market door. Security is hard at it and Bob Breyer, Larry Holt, and Max Bloodworth are collecting boat anchors and arranging them on the RARS member sales table. Frank Scaraglino will be setting up his Test Station next to the RARS table where he will help our guests check out equipment they want to buy, the final touches are being put on the stage, and the setup crew is resetting tables that were used for the supper the night before.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9 It's almost here

At 7:00 the Security crews start gently reminding the vendors that it's time to get all vehicles out of the building so we can open the doors, and at 7:30 the Admissions crew starts selling admission tickets from a booth outside the front of the building and. Then at 8:00 am we open the floodgates and the mob rushes in. Chuck Littlewood keeps the Forums and meetings going, and meanwhile Gary Pearce manages the stage through prize drawings (a 2m radio will be given away every hour from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm), announcements, paging service, information booth, and serves as a general focal point for our guests.

By mid-morning the hamfest is in full swing. The VE team headed by Joe and Liz White have opened the doors to the Amateur Radio Exams, the meetings and forums are getting started, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson is checking QSL cards, and you might hear some beeps coming from the stage area - it may even be recognized as Morse Code. If you head up to the stage area you will find Bob Condor conducting some contests for Homebrew, QLF, and QBH. You will find that those last two are the source of the noise tones you heard as contestants attempt to send using their Left Foot (QLF) or Both Hips (QBH). At 3:00 pm we have the drawing for the major prize (an ICOM 706 MK-II-G HF/VHF/UHF radio) after which the crowd rapidly thins out. At 4:00 pm we announce that RARSfest 2004 is now over and invite all to return for RARSfest 2005.

The building is now the realm of Dumpster Divers as Dave Thomas and his crew start cleaning up the boat anchors left behind and helping the vendors pack up and leave. Some tables have to be stacked for pickup the following morning but most are the property of the Fairgrounds and are left in place. All that's left at that point are the after-parties as a lot of tired workers gather at various local restaurants for a relaxing meal and swap hamfest stories.

Well – actually there are 2 more events to mention. The hamfest committee has one more meeting a few weeks after the hamfest to discuss any problems, suggestions, and swap stories about their hamfest experience, and get them noted so they can improve the next hamfest.

At the May RARS meeting the Incentive prizes are awarded, wrapping up with a \$100 cash prize!

As a RARSfest worker, you will have one ticket in the drawing for each 2-hour shift you work. So the more hours you work, the better your chances of winning. To volunteer a few hours of your time, please contact one of the RARSfest staff listed below. Alternatively you can go to the club web site at <http://www.rars.org> and click on the hamfest link where you will find a link at the bottom of the page for volunteers. There is also a RARSfest Staff link below the pictures of our featured guests Riley Hollingsworth and Dan Henderson. Use whatever method you prefer, but as the T-shirt says, “just do it”. If we all pitch in we can have another great hamfest and still have time to enjoy the event.

RARSfest Staff

Chairman Hank Montgomery K4HM
Co-Chair Tim Nicholson W4NOT
Admissions Andy Peterson NI4S
Contests Bob Condor W4RLC
Dealers Chuck. Littlewood K4HF
Flea market Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
Meetings Chuck. Littlewood K4HF
RARS Table Bob Breyer K1RCB
Larry Holt KG4FIQ
Max Bloodworth KO4TV

Security Ron Ford W4RJF
Setup Bernard Blackmon W4BRB
RARSfest Supper Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL
Stage Gary Pearce KN4AQ
Talk-In Joe Zobkiw WA2UZO
Bruce Buck KC4UQN
Teardown Dave Thomas K4SAN
Test Table Frank Scaraglino KA2FWC
Exam Team Joe White WA4GIR
Liz White KO4CK



**The Central Carolina
Skywarn Net Meets
Tuesdays at 9:15 PM
on 146.88 Repeater**

Remember to give damage reports AFTER the storms as well as DURING the storms.



Pictured from left to right:
EC John VanPelt K4JVP- Central Carolina Skywarn
AEC John Hamilton NC4JH -Triad Skywarn
EC Bill Boyes KB1G -Triad Skywarn
AEC Denyse Walter KG4CXR- CCSkywarn
Jeff Orrock -Severe Weather Coordinator Raleigh
AEC Bob Woodson WX4MMM-CCSkywarn

Photo by Matt KG4MYD

SKYWARN DINNER:

February 29, 2004, 6:30pm at the China Buffet Restaurant, 12516 Capital Boulevard in Wake Forest.

ADVANCED SPOTTERS CLASS WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 21 AT THE BOND PARK SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING 1:00PM TO 3:00. NO REGISTRATION NEEDED. WWW.CCSKYWARN.NET WILL HAVE DIRECTIONS. MARCH 2, 2004, RARS MEETING WILL BE ANOTHER SPOTTERS CLASS ON LIGHTNING. START TIME WILL BE 7:00.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO REPORTED ON THE WINTER STORM THE LAST WEEK OF JANUARY. THE REPORTS WERE QUITE HELPFUL FOR ALL THE MEDIA AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE. WE REALLY APPRECIATE THE HELP FROM THE SPOTTERS.

DID YOU KNOW.....

There is a dinner once a month, known as the RARS Dinner, where hams and non-hams get together to eat, socialize and become better acquainted.

Are you looking for a ham-related activity that your spouse, date, or family can participate in, even if they don't want to be an amateur radio operator? This is it. Do you want to meet interesting, likeable people in a nice environment? This is for you.

Come join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting in the private dining room at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30 P.M., and things usually wind down by 8 P.M. or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

March 13-14	Charlotte, NC
March 21	Kinston, NC
March 27-28	Baltimore, MD
APRIL 4	RALEIGH, NC
April 17	Morganton, NC
May 14-16	DAYTON, OH
May 15	Williamston, NC
May 29	Durham, NC
June TBA	Winston-Salem, NC
June 26-27	FIELD DAY

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal



GENERAL CLASS HELD JANUARY 2004



Photo by Denyse KG4CXR



Photo by John KG4SWI

General License Class was held on Monday and Wednesday in the month of January. Pictured on the left is Dick W8HYD, thinking what to teach next, and on the right is Mike WA4BPJ in the center teaching theory to Denyse KG4CXR, Keith KI4BZC, and Mike KC4WUH. The class was also met on Thursdays on the 164.40 repeater for question and answers after the RARS 8:00 net.